

REMARKS

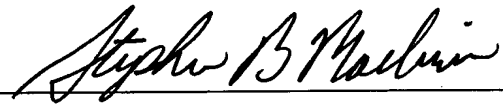
Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 1 or 2] claim 1, characterized in that said wall is an end wall of another similar device with which it forms a set of devices for the close protection of products arranged on a worktop of large length, which are sensitive to the contamination conveyed by the ambient environment, said devices being abutted without mechanical fixing therebetween.
5. (Amended) The device as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one sheath (101, 102, 103) made of a flexible material diffusing a sterile air stream in a vertical direction substantially perpendicular to said worktop (12), said sheath being formed of a quasi-leaktight upper wall and of a porous lower wall made of a perforated flexible material, extending longitudinally along the axis (X) of the sheath and delimiting between them a sterile air supply duct, and said end of the sheath being formed by a porous wall made of a perforated flexible material.
7. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 5 or 6] claim 5, characterized in that the perforated flexible material constituting the porous lower longitudinal wall and said end wall of the sheath is a synthetic fabric such as a polypropylene or polyester fabric.
8. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 5 to 7] claim 5, characterized in that each longitudinal edge of the quasi-leaktight upper longitudinal wall of said sheath is continued by a skirt (104, 105) which extends vertically toward the worktop (12) and which constitutes a means of diffusion of sterile air at high velocity relative to the porous lower longitudinal wall of the sheath which diffuses the sterile air at low velocity.
9. (Amended) The device as claimed in [any one of claims 5 to 7] claim 5, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of sheaths (101, 102, 103) made of a flexible material, juxtaposed so that their axes (X) are parallel and arranged in one

and the same plane parallel to the worktop, said sheaths (101, 102, 103) covering the entire width of said worktop (12).

11. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 8 or 10] claim 8, characterized in that the two skirts (104, 105) are of the same length and extend up to the immediate proximity of the worktop.
12. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 8 or 10] claim 8, characterized in that the two skirts (104, 105) have different lengths, a long skirt (104) whose length is approximately equal to the height allowed for between the axis of the sheath and the worktop and a short skirt (105) whose length is approximately equal to half the length of the long skirt.
13. (Amended) The device (200) as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one ventilation nozzle (201) arranged on a longitudinal edge of said worktop (12) and able to produce directed toward said products a sterile air stream in a horizontal general direction substantially parallel to said worktop, said ventilation nozzle (201) comprising at its outlet an air diffuser (202) made of a perforated material provided with upper and lower parts which produce an anti-inductive air flow whose velocity of diffusion exhibits a component normal to the worktop, said end (201a, 201b) of said ventilation nozzle being formed by a wall made of a perforated material.
15. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 13 or 14] claim 13, characterized in that the ventilation nozzle comprises at the level of said porous end (201b), on its upper surface extending horizontally up to its outlet, a strip (201c) of perforated material forming a sterile air flow directed essentially vertically away from the worktop.
18. (Amended) The device as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a cubicle (300) positioned above the worktop (12), supplied with sterile air and having a porous lower wall (301) for diffusing sterile air in a vertical

direction substantially perpendicular to the worktop (12), said porous wall being made of perforated sheet and exhibiting a profile such that it ensures central diffusion of sterile air at low velocity bordered on each side by a diffusion of sterile air at high velocity, said end of the cubicle being formed by a wall comprising at least one porous zone (302) made of a perforated material extending over the entire width of said cubicle and rising from the lower edge of said cubicle to a certain determined height.